



PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK
OCTOBER 23-31, 1998



WHEREAS, the wearing of red ribbons has become a symbol of taking a stance against drug use;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 18 million Americans abuse or are addicted to alcohol;

WHEREAS, 12.8 million, or about 6 percent of the nation's population aged 12 and over have used illegal drugs within the last 30 days;

WHEREAS, nearly half of Americans report knowing someone with a substance abuse problem;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that every man, woman and child in the U.S. pays nearly \$1,000 a year for unnecessary health care, extra law enforcement, auto crashes, crime and lost productivity that results from substance abuse;

WHEREAS, approximately 80-90 percent of all crime in the U. S. is committed by people under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

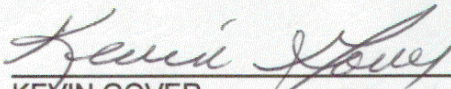
WHEREAS, substance abuse is the most untreated disease;

WHEREAS, concerned Americans must take a stand against the abuse of drugs as a first step to reduce the negative effects of such abuse on our communities and families; such as family community violence, truancy, crime, child abuse and other dysfunctional behavior;

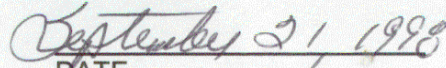
WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to help Indian tribes assure the health, safety, economic and social welfare of their respective communities;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Indian Affairs recognizes the need for more substance abuse education among Indian communities to best curb the negative effects of alcohol and substance abuse in communities in Indian Country; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, I, Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, do hereby proclaim the week of October 23-31 as NATIONAL RED RIBBON WEEK. I call upon all American Indian and Alaska Native citizens, tribes and organizations to observe this week by taking responsibility to heighten awareness and educate our people of the need to lead more productive and healthy lives by not abusing ourselves further with these poisons.



KEVIN GOVER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY - INDIAN AFFAIRS



DATE